

Appendix D. Comparison of Numbering Systems

Characteristic	Taxpayer Identifying Number (SSN and EIN)	Commercial and Government Entity	Contractor Establishment Code	Data Universal Numbering System	Procurement Automated Source System
Owner	Government	Government	Government	Dun and Bradstreet	Government
Control	IRS	DoD	GSA	Dun and Bradstreet	SBA
Laws and regulations	Reg. 26 CFR 31.6109-1	DFAR	FAR	Not applicable	Sec 8(b) of Small Business Act
Data availability	Due to Privacy Act, information is not accessible; limited validations through IRS	Readily accessible by government and limited access for industry	Readily accessible by government	Readily accessible by government and industry	Readily accessible by government and industry
Universal recognition	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Code structure	Nine positions	Five positions	Nine positions	Nine positions	Not applicable
Accuracy check	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Approximate number issued	20 million employer identification numbers	639,000 U.S., Canadian, and limited foreign companies	260,000 U.S. and foreign companies	35 million U.S. and foreign companies; 18.5 million identified and 12 million active in U.S.	250,000 U.S.
How issued	1-800 telephone number, and Form SS-4	Form DD 2051, electronic bulletin board service, and government procurement office	Government procurement office	By phone to entities making an inquiry and through processing of yellow pages	PASS company profile form
Issuance cost to government	Unknown	According to DLA, it requires 5 or 6 FTE to operate and maintain the system	\$1.20 per number	Possibly none	SBA pays approximately \$1.1 million annually to contractor for operations and maintenance. According to SBA, issuance cost is \$1.10 per firm.
Validation cost to government	Unknown	Contracting officers perform the initial validation process	\$20 for new vendor	Possibly no cost	Limited validation; updated annually at a cost of \$1.05 per firm
Annual maintenance cost to government	Unknown	See issuance cost to government	\$300,000 per annum	Negotiable	See above
Performance information availability	No	No	Yes, through Dun and Bradstreet	Yes	No

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Usage	By IRS to identify tax filings and financial community to identify transactions	By DoD and some agencies to identify vendors for national stock numbers	By most agencies and part of DoD to identify vendors	By most agencies and businesses for credit reports and some EDI applications	By some agencies and business to identify small and disadvantaged vendors
How to access data base	None	Batch file, telephone requests, and hard copy (free)	File on tapes, telephone requests, and hard copy (free)	Telephone and on-line ability (possible cost)	On-line or through SBA regional office
Issuance cost to trading partner	None	None	None	None	None